



Background Information

Established 30 years ago, Community Enterprise Ltd first started operating as Community Enterprise Lothians in 1987. Originally funded by the Urban Regeneration Fund, CE Ltd worked in deprived areas of Edinburgh developing local businesses and supporting local people.

As the role of social enterprise in regenerating our communities has become more recognized, and as community empowerment has become more widespread, so has the importance of delivering 'hands-on' development support to community organisations wishing to become more effective and more sustainable. This change in environment and need has also led to the evolution of Community Enterprise itself. From being an intermediary organisation operating in Edinburgh, signposting community organisations to possible assistance, we have now become the direct deliverer of that assistance and expertise and operate throughout Scotland.

Community Enterprise Ltd is a social enterprise itself, currently earning the majority of its own income through its trading subsidiary, but using grants to fund specific programmes.

Our vision is of a society where social and financial wealth is created by, and used for the benefit of, empowered communities.

Services

Our core customers and beneficiaries are largely community based organisations in Scotland who commission us directly. We also deliver national and regional contracts across the country and serve around 200 clients per year. We have an expert team of 17 people each with specialisms.

Our development arm develops enterprise, communities and organisations including strategic thinking, market research, business planning, evaluations, organisational reviews, community action plans and fund-raising.

We operate Scotland's only social enterprise focused creative and strategic marketing company. Now in its fourth year of development, it has deliniated services based on collaboration. These include beautiful branding, social media campaigning, innovative engagement and creative marketing strategy.

As well as direct support we innovate online infrastructure improvements. Our business model is our social mission.

100% of our profits are re-invested directly into growing the capacity of the sector. This funds new initiatives and it provides free capacity building support. This achieves a range of outcomes for example implementation (ensuring we see projects through to completion) and troubleshooting (once an enterprise is active but either gets into difficulties or wants to progress). These interventions change all the time in response to need.

Values and Approach

Community Enterprise is a values driven organisation which is strongly reflected in our approach:

Community

We value the word community in our title and endeavour to support trading that makes a difference on a local level. Our core beneficiaries and clients are organisations rooted in their geographical or thematic community.

Enterprise

Though using a community development approach, we support groups where sustainability through trading is the focus of the work. Promoting innovation is a key part of this.

Empowerment

We will encourage people to take responsibility for the development of their idea and support them to make the necessary changes. Ultimately, we aim to make impact but also create and enhance capacity.

Quality

We will provide professional services which are of the highest quality in terms of the robustness of the work and the clarity of its presentation. We will be honest, reliable and demonstrate integrity. We keep up to date with policy and practice through thorough research, employ staff with the appropriate skills, disseminate accurate information and engage in intelligent networking.

Inspiration

We aspire to be a dynamic organisation, in step with modern policy and practice, challenging and supporting local organisations to embrace new ways of doing things. We believe social enterprise is one of many tools and can be one which may appear more risky.

Relationship

We will commit to working with organisations, within the resources we have, for as long as they need it and at the level and pace they need it. We ultimately view ourselves as part of a team approach where bringing together our expertise with local knowledge and passion will create something that transforms individuals and communities.

Added Value

As a social enterprise, profit from our work is used to provide free support to other social enterprises to further develop or implement their ideas.

Please see our website (www.communityenterprise.co.uk) for further information.